

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02
EB-08 /093 W

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R 011827Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2698
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS TREASURY

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, EAID, PORG, EFIN, UK
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS (IFI'S)

SUMMARY. STATE-TREASURY TEAM MET WITH UK COUNTERPARTS
AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON APPLICATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS CRITERIA TO MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL AID. THE
UK AND U.S. TEAMS AGREED THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION WOULD
BE DESIRABLE, LEADING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A COORDINA-
TED APPROACH IN THE IFI'S. END SUMMARY.

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1. STATE-TREASURY TEAM (NACHMANOFF, MEISSNER, SCHNEIDER
AND OXMAN) MET WITH ODM PERMANENT SECRETARY SIR PETER
PRESTON, ODM DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER FOGARTY, ODM
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION DEPT. HEAD JOHN EDWARDS, HM
TREASURY UNDERSECRETARY FOR AID AND EXPORT FINANCE MAL-
COLM WIDDUP, FCO FINANCIAL RELATIONS DEPT. HEAD HUMPHREY
MAUD, AND ODM REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK POLICY OFFICER

B.A. MITCHELL AT THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
ON FEBRUARY 1 AT 10:15; MEETING LASTED ALMOST TWO HOURS.

2. POINTS MADE BY THE U.S. TEAM WERE:

(A) THE U.S. HAS BEEN PUTTING TOGETHER A POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS CRITERIA FOR AID SINCE JANUARY, 1977 BASED ON (1) CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN THAT AID BE CHanneLED TO COUNTRIES WHICH RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS OR, FAILING THAT, TO MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF POOR PEOPLE AND POOR COUNTRIES; AND (2) THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW OF A NEED FOR A MORAL COMMITMENT IN FOREIGN POLICY.

(B) THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH LIKE-MINDED AID DONORS LEADING TO MUTUAL ACTION TO REWARD WITH AID THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND PERHAPS BRING ABOUT SOME CHANGE WITHIN THE MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENTS.

(C) ALTHOUGH WE BASICALLY VIEW OUR ENTIRE POLICY AS STEMMING FROM THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WE HAVE FOR PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY CATEGORIZED HUMAN RIGHTS AS (1) INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON (PROTECTION FROM TORTURE, ARBITRARY ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT, INVASION OF THE HOME, DENIAL OF FAIR TRIALS); (2) FOOD AND SHELTER, HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION; (3) CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES (SPEECH, THOUGHT, ASSEMBLY, MOVEMENT).

(D) ACTION AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS SHOULD BE IN A CALIBRATED AND SEQUENTIAL MANNER, BEGINNING WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MORAL SUASION AND DISCRETE POLICY CHANGE AND LEADING TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS, DELAY OR DENIAL OF BILATERAL AID AND ABSTENTION OR NEGATIVE VOTE IN IFI'S.

(E) WE ATTEMPT TO BASE OUR DECISION ON THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND WE HAVE GIVEN PRIORITY TO FIELD REPORTING ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HAVE INITIATED COORDINATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

3. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, THE U.S. TEAM ADDED:

(A) IN SPEAKING OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS (FOOD, SHELTER), WE CONSIDER THAT CORRUPTION AND INSENSITIVITY TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS BY A REGIME LIMITING BENEFITS TO A FAVORED CLIQUE CONSTITUTES A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION, ALBEIT OF A SECOND ORDER.

(B) WE WOULD TREAT MORE SERIOUSLY HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN A COUNTRY WHICH HAD BEEN INDEPENDENT FOR SOME TIME AND WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY RESPECTED HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT HAD NOW REGRESSED. (PRESTON SAID THAT THE UK SHARED THIS VIEW AND WAS GENERALLY MORE TOLERANT OF LAPSES IN COUNTRIES EMERGING FROM COLONIAL STATUS; "DOES A FREE PRESS REALLY MATTER IF 90 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION

CAN'T READ?"

(C) SECTION 701 OF THE NEW AUTHORIZATION BILL
DIRECTS THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND TREASURY TO INIT-
IATE CONSULTATIONS SUCH AS THOSE LEADING TO THE CHANNEL-

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LING OF AID TO COUNTRIES WHICH RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS.

(D) HUMAN RIGHTS DO NOT REPRESENT OUR SOLE CRITER-
ION; FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS AND SECURITY, FOR
EXAMPLE, ARE ALSO FACTORS.

4. JOHN EDWARDS DIFFERENTIATED THE BRITISH APPROACH,
STATING THAT THE UK "WOULD HESITATE TO INTERFERE IN AN
IFI PROJECT SO LONG AS WE HAD A BILATERAL PROGRAM IN A
COUNTRY." UK WOULD FIRST SEEK TO INFLUENCE REPRESSIVE
COUNTRIES BY CUTTING BILATERAL PROGRAMS.

5. SIR PETER PRESTON AGREED THAT CLOSE CONSULTATION
WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS, AND SUGGESTED THAT WITH RESPECT
TO IBRD AND IDB IT TAKE PLACE THROUGH OUR RESPECTIVE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, AND FOR THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BANKS IT TAKE PLACE AT OUR EMBASSIES IN THE VARIOUS
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CAPITALS. HE ADDED THAT WHILE THE UK HAS "WIDER FOREIGN
POLICY INTERESTS THAT WE CAN'T DISREGARD, THE HUMAN
RIGHTS DIMENSION HAS MOVED UP IN THE SCALE OF PRIORI-
TIES."

6. THE BRITISH TEAM EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE INTEG-
RITY OF THE IMF OR A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION NOT BE RISKED
BY THE APPLICATION OF A HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD, AND IT
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE LDC'S WOULD RESIST ANY POLIT-
ICAL CRITERIA FOR AID -- AT LEAST THIS WAS THE POSITION
TAKEN BY THE ACP'S WITH RESPECT TO LOME II AND AT THE
COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. THEY ALSO FEARED LDC'S WOULD
SEE HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE AS AN ATTEMPT TO CUT OR RE-
DUCE GROWTH OF OVERALL AID LEVELS. THEY MADE NO IMMED-
IATE COMMITMENT TO ASSIST THE U.S. IN PRESENTING SHARED
VIEWS TO SPECIFIC LDC'S, BUT AGREED TO CONSIDER WHICH
LDC'S MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE AND TO DISCUSS THE POINT WITH
US FURTHER.

7. IN CLOSING, BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT IT WAS MOST IM-
PORTANT TO AVERT A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE LDC'S AND
THE AID DONORS, AND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS AS A CRITERION
FOR AID SHOULD NOT BECOME AN ELEMENT OF NORTH-SOUTH
NEGOTIATIONS.

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